

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached Replacement Sheet for Fig. 3 includes the text label --PVM--. No new matter has been added. Approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 28 to 56 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

II. Allowed Claim 56 and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claim 56 is allowed.

Applicant also notes with appreciation the indication that claim 39 includes allowable subject matter. In this regard, claim 39 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 39 is in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicant further notes with appreciation the indication that claims 53 to 55 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In this regard, as more fully explained below, claims 53 to 55 as presented fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 53 to 55 are in condition for immediate allowance.

III. Objection to the Drawings

As regard the objection to the drawings, the Examiner will note that Fig. 3 has been amended to include the text label --PVM--. No new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

IV. Objection to the Abstract

As regards to the objection to the Abstract, it is first noted that there is no requirement that an abstract exceed fifty words. In this regard, PCT Rule 8(b) merely provides that “[t]he abstract shall be as concise as the disclosure permits (*preferably*) -- but not necessarily -- “50 to 150 words if it is in English or when translated into English.” (emphasis added). Furthermore, the abstract, as presented in the Substitute Specification filed on October 7, 2004, is 55 words in length. In addition, the abstract as presented in the

Substitute Specification does not include reference characters and is in a single paragraph. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the present objection should be withdrawn.

V. Rejection of Claims 34, 35, 38, 40 and 53 to 55 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 34, 35, 38, 40 and 53 to 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the merits of this objection, to facilitate matters, claims 34, 35, 38, 40 and 53 have been amended herein without prejudice to even better clarify the subject matter of the claims. It is believed that these amendments are self-explanatory. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present rejection has been obviated, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

VI. Rejection of Claims 28 to 37, 40 and 43 to 52 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 28 to 37, 40 and 43 to 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by PCT International Published Patent Application No. W0 01/56133 (“Al-Khayat”). While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate matters, claims 28 and 48 have been amended herein without prejudice to include features essentially analogous to features included in claim 53, which was indicated to include allowable subject matter. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 28 and 48, as well dependent claims 29 to 37, 40 and 43 to 52, are patentable over Al-Khayat for at least the same reasons that claim 53 was indicated to include allowable subject matter.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

VII. Rejection of Claims 28 to 30, 32 to 38, 40 to 42 and 44 to 52 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 28 to 30, 32 to 38, 40 to 42 and 44 to 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,327,273 (“Takagi”). While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate matters, claims 28 and 48 have been amended herein without prejudice to include features essentially analogous to features included in claim 53, which was indicated to contain include subject matter. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 28 and 48, as well as dependent claims 29 to 30, 32 to 38, 40 to 42, 44 to 47 and 49 to 52, are patentable over Takagi for at least the same reasons that claim 53 was indicated to include allowable subject matter.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

VIII. Rejection of Claim 42 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 42 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Al-Khayat. Claim 42 depends from claim 28 and therefore includes all of the features recited in claim 28. As more fully set forth above, Al-Khayat does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 28, from which claim 42 depends. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Al-Khayat does not render unpatentable claim 42, which depends from claim 28, for at least the reasons more fully set forth above.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IX. Rejection of Claim 43 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 43 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takagi. Claim 43 depends from claim 28 and therefore includes all of the features recited in claim 28. As more fully set forth above, Takagi does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 28, from which claim 43 depends. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Takagi does not render unpatentable claim 43, which depends from claim 28, for at least the reasons more fully set forth above.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

X. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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